PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN

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(54) SINGLE PLATE TYPE SOLID-STATE COLOR IMAGE PICKUP DEVICE

(57) Abstract:

PURPOSE: To reduce the noise without reducing the color signal carrier to improve the sensitivity by circulating the signal electric charge in a cyclic CCD to add and output the signal charges of the same color components.

CONSTITUTION: A cyclic electric charge transfer device 15 and an output device 16 are provided on the output side of the last electric charge transfer stage consisting of electrodes 11, 11... and 12, 12.... First sent signal charges 1 and 2 are circulated by the cyclic electric charge transfer device 15 and are internally added to next sent signal electric charges 3 and 4 respectively. These added signal electric charges are outputted through the output device 16 to obtain the signal where signal charges of the same color components are added. This method is repeated to obtain a continuous output. Thus, not only signal electric charges of every two picture elements but also those of three picture elements out of signal electric charges of a CCD image pickup element having color filter arrays with two picture elements as one period are internally added.

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CLAIMS

[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1] In the veneer type solid-state color image pick-up equipment which takes out a chrominance signal from a CCD image sensor using a color filter array The signal-charge transfer way to the level transfer CCD from the perpendicular transfer CCD of said CCD image sensor, At least to one side with the signal-charge transfer way from the level transfer CCD to the amplifying circuit for charge electrical-potential-difference conversion The round mold CCD which has a charge transfer number of stages corresponding to the repeat period of the chrominance signal by said color filter array is made to intervene. Veneer type solid-state color image pick-up equipment characterized by constituting and becoming so that the same color component comrade's signal charge may be added and outputted by making a signal charge patrol within this round mold CCD.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[Industrial Application] This invention relates to amelioration of the veneer type solid-state color image pickup equipment which takes out a three-primary-colors signal from the CCD (charge KAPPURUDO device) image sensor of one sheet using a color filter array. [0002]

[Description of the Prior Art] As everyone knows, if it is in a CCD image sensor, the dark current of the photodiode which was the cause of main of a noise is decreasing sharply by improvement in a manufacturing technology in recent years, and the noise of the amplifying circuit for charge electrical-potential-difference conversion of the output stage of a CCD image sensor serves as a subject as a noise which determines current and its sensibility. And the noise of this amplifying circuit for charge electrical-potential-difference conversion is reduced, and in order to raise an SN ratio and to attain high sensitivity-ization, after carrying out internal addition of the signal charge adjoined and accumulated into the charge transfer stage of a CCD image sensor, recently, a noise reduction means to send out to the amplifying circuit for charge electrical-potential-difference conversion is provided.

[0003] This noise reduction means considers the last stage of a charge transfer stage as the separate electrodes 11 and 11,, the configuration with which 12, 12, and .. are arranged by turns mutually, as being shown in <u>drawing 27</u>, speaking concretely. By three kinds of driving pulses phi1, phi2, and phi3, as shown in <u>drawing 28</u> (a) - (i), after pooling every 2 pixels of signal charges sent to this last stage, they are sent out to the amplifying circuit 13 for charge electrical-potential-difference conversion. according to this noise reduction means -- the noise of the amplifying circuit 13 for charge electrical-potential-difference conversion -- NA ** -- if it carries out, when external addition of the signal charge for n pixel (the above-mentioned example 2 pixels) is carried out, a noise will serve as n1/2 NA -- receiving -- the case of internal addition -- a noise -- NA it is -- in order not to change as -- after all -- n1 / 2 An improvement of a twice as many SN ratio as this is attained.

[0004] By the way, he acquires an output signal as shown in <u>drawing 30</u>, and is trying to reproduce a chrominance signal from a part of this output signal become irregular by attaching the color filter array 14 as shown in <u>drawing 29</u> on the photosensitive picture element of a CCD image sensor with the veneer type solid-state color image pick-up equipment which takes out a three-primary-colors signal from the CCD image sensor of one sheet using a color filter array. However, if the noise reduction means shown in <u>drawing 28</u> (a) - (i) is applied to such veneer type solid-state color image pick-up equipment, as shown at <u>drawing 31</u>, the chrominance-signal carrier outputted will be lost and the problem of playback of a chrominance signal becoming impossible will arise.

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[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] As mentioned above, with the conventional noise reduction means, if it applies to veneer type solid-state color image pick-up equipment, chrominance-signal carriers decrease in number and it has the problem of it becoming impossible to reproduce a chrominance signal. [0006] Then, this invention was made in consideration of the above-mentioned situation, and it aims at offering the very good veneer type solid-state color image pick-up equipment which reduces a noise and can attain high sensitivity-ization, without decreasing a chrominance-signal carrier. [0007]

[Means for Solving the Problem] The veneer type solid-state color image pick-up equipment concerning this invention In the veneer type solid-state color image pick-up equipment which takes out a chrominance signal from a CCD image sensor using a color filter array The signal-charge transfer way to the level transfer CCD from the perpendicular transfer CCD of a CCD image sensor, At least to one side with the signal-charge transfer way from the level transfer CCD to the amplifying circuit for charge electrical-potential-difference conversion The round mold CCD which has a charge transfer number of stages corresponding to the repeat period of the chrominance signal by the color filter array is made to intervene, and by making a signal charge patrol within this round mold CCD, it constitutes so that the same color component comrade's signal charge may be added and outputted.

[Function] Since a signal charge is made to patrol within the round mold CCD, the same color component comrade's signal charge is added and it was made to output according to the above configurations, without decreasing a chrominance-signal carrier, a noise can be reduced and high sensitivity-ization can be attained. [0009]

[Example] Hereafter, one example of this invention is explained to a detail with reference to a drawing. In drawing 1 (a), the same sign is attached and shown in the same part as drawing 28. Namely, as the round mold charge transfer stage 15 and an output stage 16 are established in the output side of the last charge transfer stage which consists of electrodes 11 and 11, and 12 and 12, and .. and it is shown in drawing 1 (b) - (j) and drawing 2 (a), and (b) The signal with which the same color comrade was added is acquired by making the signal charges 1 and 2 sent first patrol in the round mold charge transfer stage 15, each carrying out internal addition with the signal charges 3 and 4 sent to a degree, and outputting this added signal charge through an output stage 16. And the output which continued by repeating drawing 1 (e) - (j) and drawing 2 (a), and (b) is obtained.

[0010] Although <u>drawing 1</u> and <u>drawing 2</u> showed carrying out internal addition of every 2 pixels of the signal charges of a CCD image sensor with the color filter array in a cycle of 2 pixel, internal addition of the signal charge for 3 pixels can also be carried out. In this case, the combination of the 3-pixel signal charge which carries out internal addition has the case where the addition output which continued as shown in <u>drawing 3</u> (a) is intermittently obtained with a rest in between, and the case shown in this drawing (b) where it is obtained at equal intervals like.

[0011] The output state shown in <u>drawing 3</u> (a) is realizable by repeating processing of <u>drawing 1</u> (e) - (h) twice. Moreover, the output state shown in <u>drawing 3</u> (b) is realizable by making a signal charge patrol twice, carrying out internal addition of the signal charge for 3 pixels, and making the transfer to the next step into the period of 3 pixel, as shown in <u>drawing 4</u> (a) - (j) and <u>drawing 5</u> (a) - (j). In this case, the output which continued by repeating drawing 4 (i) - <u>drawing 5</u> (j) is obtained.

[0012] In the color filter array shown in <u>drawing 6</u>, the repeat period of a color filter array becomes 3 pixels. The actuation at the time of performing 2-pixel internal addition mentioned above using such a color filter array is shown in <u>drawing 7</u> (a) - (j) and <u>drawing 8</u> (a) - (g). Although the signal output state and the non-output state are repeated every 3 pixels in this example, if the charge transfer (i), i.e., <u>drawing 7</u>, and <u>drawing 8</u> (d) to an output are replaced, a signal output can be performed every 2 pixels. And in this example, the output which continued by repeating <u>drawing 7</u> (f) - <u>drawing 8</u> (g) is obtained. [0013] Next, electrode structure and a driving pulse are explained. <u>Drawing 9</u> shows the electrode structure at the time of installing the round mold CCD of two steps of transfer number of stageses between the

perpendicular transfer CCD and the level transfer CCD, and shows the mimetic diagram of this electrode structure to <u>drawing 10</u>. The part shown with the slash by <u>drawing 10</u> is the round mold CCD. The driving pulse in the case of making the charge transfer shown in <u>drawing 1</u> and <u>drawing 2</u> with such electrode structure perform is shown in <u>drawing 11</u>. In addition, in <u>drawing 11</u>, a signal charge shall move to the higher one of a pulse, and Signs 1a-1j and 2a, and 2b support <u>drawing 1</u> (a) - (j) and <u>drawing 2</u> (a), and (b), respectively.

[0014] Moreover, the driving pulse in the case of making the charge transfer shown in <u>drawing 4</u> and <u>drawing 5</u> with the electrode structure shown in <u>drawing 10</u> perform is shown in <u>drawing 12</u>. In addition, in <u>drawing 12</u>, Signs 4a-4j, and 5a-5j support <u>drawing 4</u> (a) - (j) and <u>drawing 5</u> (a) - (j), respectively. Furthermore, the electrode structure in the case of making the charge transfer shown in <u>drawing 7</u> and <u>drawing 8</u> perform is shown in <u>drawing 13</u>, and the driving pulse is shown in <u>drawing 14</u>. In addition, the part shown with the slash by <u>drawing 13</u> is the round mold CCD. Moreover, in <u>drawing 14</u>, <u>drawing 7</u> (a) - (j) and <u>drawing 8</u> (a) - (g) is supported, respectively Signs 7a-7j and 8a-8g.

[0015] Next, drawing 15 shows the electrode structure at the time of making the round mold CCD whose transfer number of stages is two steps intervene between the level transfer CCD and the amplifying circuit for charge electrical-potential-difference conversion. The driving pulse in the case of making the charge transfer shown in drawing 1 and drawing 2 with this electrode structure perform is shown in drawing 16. In addition, in drawing 16, Signs 1a-1j and 2a, and 2b support drawing 1 (a) - (j) and drawing 2 (a), and (b), respectively. Moreover, the driving pulse in the case of making the charge transfer shown in drawing 4 and drawing 5 with the electrode structure shown in drawing 15 perform is shown in drawing 17. In addition, in drawing 17, Signs 4a-4j, and 5a-5j support drawing 4 (a) - (j) and drawing 5 (a) - (j), respectively. [0016] Furthermore, drawing 18 shows the electrode structure at the time of making the round mold CCD whose transfer number of stages is three steps intervene between the level transfer CCD and the amplifying circuit for charge electrical-potential-difference conversion. The driving pulse in the case of making the charge transfer shown in drawing 7 and drawing 8 with this electrode structure perform is shown in drawing 19. In addition, in drawing 19, drawing 7 (a) - (j) and drawing 8 (a) - (g) is supported, respectively Signs 7a-7j and 8a-8g.

[0017] Next, a signal charge is explained about processing of the signal acquired from CCD taking the case of the case where interior addition of 2 pixel is carried out, using the color filter array of a perpendicular the period of two lines. That is, as shown in <u>drawing 20</u>, the output of CCD17 is sent out to 2H delay circuit 19 through a switch 18. A switch 18 leads the signal to 2H delay circuit 19, when the output signal is generated from CCD17, and when the output signal is not generated from CCD17, change-over control of it is carried out by the driving pulse generating circuit 20 so that the output of 2H delay circuit 19 may be again led to 2H delay circuit 19.

[0018] For this reason, the continuous signal can be acquired for I/O of 2H delay circuit 19, and a colour television signal can be generated by processing this signal to it. In this case, by adding I/O of 2H delay circuit 19 in an adder circuit 21, linear interpolation can be carried out, it can depend and a smooth signal can be acquired. In addition, the signal of the a-d point in drawing 20 is shown in drawing 21 (a) - (d). [0019] Moreover, although an output signal can be continuously acquired when there is the 2-time number of Rhine as which the number of vertical lines is actually displayed (for example, when making the image pick-up equipment for EDTV using the CCD image sensor for Hi-Vision), as the arrow head of a continuous line shows to drawing 22, the center of gravity of the sampling point of an optical image is not located in a line with at equal intervals that it seems that a drawing middle point line shows. In order to avoid this condition, as shown in drawing 23, a sampling point can be arranged in at equal intervals equivalent by adding the signal to which the output of 2H delay circuit 19 was subtracted from the output of CCD17 in the subtractor circuit 22, and one eighth of sign + of that subtraction result and - were led with a change and this switch 23 by the switch 23 based on the output of the driving pulse generating circuit 20, and the output of CCD17 in an adder circuit 24.

[0020] Next, processing of the signal acquired from CCD which made the round mold CCD intervene

between the level transfer CCD and the amplifying circuit for charge electrical-potential-difference conversion is explained. In addition, since it can be similarly explained as the case of a perpendicular the period of two lines in the case of in a cycle of 2 pixel, the case where it is <u>drawing 7</u> and <u>drawing 8</u> from which an addition output is obtained every 2 pixels by the color filter array in a cycle of [which was shown in <u>drawing 6</u>] 3 pixel is explained.

[0021] In such a color filter array, as shown in drawing 24, R and G which were separated as shown in drawing 25, and B signal can be acquired by sampling the sequential signal of R, G, and B which are outputted from CCD17 in the S/H (sample/hold) circuits 25, 26, and 27 based on SAMBU ring pulse phiR outputted from the driving pulse generating circuit 20, phiG, and phiB. For this reason, high sensitivity-ization can be attained, if the driving pulse generating circuit 20 is constituted so that sampling pulse phiR which corresponds only when the output of CCD17 is obtained, phiG, and phiB may be generated as shown in drawing 26. In addition, this invention is not limited to each above-mentioned example, in the range which does not deviate from that summary this outside, can deform variously and can be carried out. [0022]

[Effect of the Invention] The very good veneer type solid-state color image pick-up equipment which reduces a noise and can attain high sensitivity-ization can be offered without decreasing a chrominance-signal carrier according to this invention, as explained in full detail above.

DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Drawing 1] Drawing in which explaining one example of the veneer type solid-state color image pick-up equipment concerning this invention, and showing the situation of a charge transfer.

[Drawing 2] Drawing showing the situation of this charge transfer.

[Drawing 3] Drawing shown in order to explain the output state at the time of 3-pixel addition.

[Drawing 4] Drawing showing the situation of the charge transfer at the time of this 3-pixel addition.

[Drawing 5] Drawing showing the situation of this charge transfer.

[Drawing 6] Drawing showing the color filter array in a cycle of 3 pixel.

[Drawing 7] Drawing showing the situation of the charge transfer at the time of the 2-pixel addition using a same color filter array.

[Drawing 8] Drawing showing the situation of this charge transfer.

[Drawing 9] Drawing showing the electrode structure of this example.

[Drawing 10] Drawing showing this electrode structure typically.

[Drawing 11] Drawing showing the driving pulse for performing the charge transfer shown in <u>drawing 1</u> and <u>drawing 2</u> with the configuration of this mimetic diagram.

[<u>Drawing 12</u>] Drawing showing the driving pulse for performing the charge transfer shown in <u>drawing 4</u> and <u>drawing 5</u> with the configuration of this mimetic diagram.

[Drawing 13] Drawing showing typically the electrode structure for performing the charge transfer shown in drawing 7 and drawing 8.

[Drawing 14] Drawing showing the driving pulse for performing the charge transfer shown in <u>drawing 7</u> and <u>drawing 8</u> with the configuration of this mimetic diagram.

[<u>Drawing 15</u>] Drawing showing the electrode structure at the time of making the round mold CCD whose transfer number of stages is two steps intervene between the level transfer CCD and the amplifying circuit for charge electrical-potential-difference conversion.

[Drawing 16] Drawing showing the driving pulse for performing the charge transfer shown in <u>drawing 1</u> and <u>drawing 2</u> with this electrode structure.

[Drawing 17] Drawing showing the driving pulse for performing the charge transfer shown in drawing 4 and

drawing 5 with this electrode structure.

[<u>Drawing 18</u>] Drawing showing the electrode structure at the time of making the round mold CCD whose transfer number of stages is three steps intervene between the level transfer CCD and the amplifying circuit for charge electrical-potential-difference conversion.

[Drawing 19] Drawing showing the driving pulse for performing the charge transfer shown in <u>drawing 7</u> and <u>drawing 8</u> with this electrode structure.

[Drawing 20] The block block diagram showing the processing circuit of the signal acquired from CCD.

[Drawing 21] Drawing shown in order to explain actuation of this processing circuit.

[Drawing 22] Drawing shown in order to explain that the center of gravity of the sampling point of an optical image is not located in a line at equal intervals.

[Drawing 23] The block block diagram showing the circuit for making the center of gravity of the sampling point of an optical image located in a line at equal intervals.

[Drawing 24] The block block diagram showing other processing circuits of the signal acquired from CCD.

[Drawing 25] Drawing shown in order to explain actuation of the processing circuit of ****.

[Drawing 26] Drawing shown in order to explain the generating timing of the sampling pulse in actuation of the processing circuit of ****.

[Drawing 27] Drawing showing the electrode structure of the conventional noise reduction means.

[Drawing 28] Drawing showing the situation of a charge transfer of this noise reduction means.

[Drawing 29] Drawing showing the color filter array in a cycle of 2 pixel.

[Drawing 30] Drawing showing the output of this noise reduction means.

[Drawing 31] Drawing shown in order to explain the trouble of this noise reduction means.

[Description of Notations]

11 12 [-- A round mold charge transfer stage, 16 / -- An output stage, 17 / -- CCD, 18 / -- A switch, 19 / -- 2H delay circuit, 20 / -- A driving pulse generating circuit, 21 / -- An adder circuit, 22 / -- A subtractor circuit, 23 / -- A switch, 24 / -- An adder circuit, 25-27 / -- S/H circuit.] -- An electrode, 13 -- The amplifying circuit for charge electrical-potential-difference conversion, 14 -- A color filter array, 15

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(54)【発明の名称】 単板式固体カラー撮像装置

(57)【要約】

【目的】この発明は、色信号キャリアを減少させることなく雑音を低減し高感度化を図り得る単板式固体カラー 撮像装置を提供することを目的としている。

【構成】CCD撮像素子から色フィルタアレイを用いて色信号を取り出す単板式固体カラー撮像装置において、CCD撮像素子の垂直転送CCDから水平転送CCDへの信号電荷転送路と、水平転送CCDから電荷電圧変換用増幅回路への信号電荷転送路との少なくとも一方に、色フィルタアレイによる色信号の繰り返し周期に対応した電荷転送段数を有する巡回型CCD15を介在させ、この巡回型CCD15内で信号電荷を巡回させることによって同じ色成分同志の信号電荷を加算して出力するように構成している。

| (a) | 6 5 11 12 11 12 11 12 11 12 11 12 11 12 11 12 11 12 |
|-----|---|
| (b) | 11 21 31 41 51 61 71 |
| (c) | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 |
| (d) | 1 2 3 4 6 6 7 6 |
| (e) | 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 |
| (1) | 3 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 |
| (g) | 2 1 |
| (h) | [3] 4] 5] 6] 7] 8] 9] A] |
| (1) | 3 24 51 61 71 61 91 A1 181 |
| (1) | ZA STELLATED STATE |

【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】 CCD撮像素子から色フィルタアレイを用いて色信号を取り出す単板式固体カラー撮像装置において、前記CCD撮像素子の垂直転送CCDから水平転送CCDへの信号電荷転送路と、水平転送CCDから電荷電圧変換用増幅回路への信号電荷転送路との少なくとも一方に、前記色フィルタアレイによる色信号の繰り返し周期に対応した電荷転送段数を有する巡回型CCDを介在させ、この巡回型CCD内で信号電荷を巡回させることによって同じ色成分同志の信号電荷を加算して出力するように構成してなることを特徴とする単板式固体カラー撮像装置。

【発明の詳細な説明】

[0001]

【産業上の利用分野】この発明は、1枚のCCD(チャージ・カップルド・デバイス)撮像素子から色フィルタアレイを用いて3原色信号を取り出す単板式固体カラー撮像装置の改良に関する。

[0002]

【従来の技術】周知のように、CCD撮像素子にあっては、近年の製造技術の向上によって、雑音の主原因であったフォトダイオードの暗電流が大幅に減少されてきており、現在、その感度を決定する雑音としては、CCD撮像素子の出力段の電荷電圧変換用増幅回路の雑音が主体となっている。そして、この電荷電圧変換用増幅回路の雑音を低減し、SN比を向上させて高感度化を図るために、近時では、CCD撮像素子の電荷転送段内に隣接して蓄積された信号電荷を内部加算してから、電荷電圧変換用増幅回路に送出するという雑音低減手段が講じられている。

【0004】ところで、1枚のCCD撮像素子から色フィルタアレイを用いて3原色信号を取り出す単板式固体カラー撮像装置では、CCD撮像素子の感光画素上に例えば図29に示すような色フィルタアレイ14を取り付けることにより、図30に示すような出力信号を得、この出力信号の変調分から色信号を再生するようにしている。しかしながら、このような単板式固体カラー撮像装

置に、図28(a)~(i)に示した雑音低減手段を適用すると、図31に示すように、出力される色信号キャリアがなくなってしまい、色信号の再生ができなくなるという問題が生じる。

[0005]

【発明が解決しようとする課題】以上のように、従来の 雑音低減手段では、単板式固体カラー撮像装置に適用す ると、色信号キャリアが減少し色信号を再生することが できなくなるという問題を有している。

【0006】そこで、この発明は上記事情を考慮してなされたもので、色信号キャリアを減少させることなく雑音を低減し高感度化を図り得る極めて良好な単板式固体カラー撮像装置を提供することを目的とする。

[0007]

【課題を解決するための手段】この発明に係る単板式固体カラー撮像装置は、CCD撮像素子から色フィルタアレイを用いて色信号を取り出す単板式固体カラー撮像装置において、CCD撮像素子の垂直転送CCDから水平転送CCDへの信号電荷転送路と、水平転送CCDから電荷電圧変換用増幅回路への信号電荷転送路との少なくとも一方に、色フィルタアレイによる色信号の繰り返し周期に対応した電荷転送段数を有する巡回型CCDを介在させ、この巡回型CCD内で信号電荷を巡回させることによって同じ色成分同志の信号電荷を加算して出力するように構成したものである。

[0008]

【作用】上記のような構成によれば、信号電荷を巡回型 CCD内で巡回させて同じ色成分同志の信号電荷を加算 して出力するようにしたので、色信号キャリアを減少さ せることなく雑音を低減し高感度化を図ることができ る。

[0009]

【実施例】以下、この発明の一実施例について図面を参照して詳細に説明する。図1(a)において、図28と同一部分には同一符号を付して示している。すなわち、電極11,11,……及び12,12,……よりなる最終の電荷転送段の出力側に巡回型電荷転送段15と出力段16とを設け、図1(b)~(j)及び図2(a),

- (b) に示すように、最初に送られてきた信号電荷1,2を巡回型電荷転送段15で巡回させて、次に送られてくる信号電荷3,4とそれぞれ内部加算させ、この加算された信号電荷を出力段16を介して出力することにより、同じ色同志が加算された信号を得るようにしたものである。そして、図1(e)~(j)及び図2(a),
- (b)を繰り返すことにより連続した出力が得られる。 【0010】図1及び図2では、2画素周期の色フィルタアレイを持つCCD撮像素子の信号電荷を2画素づつ内部加算することを示したが、3画素分の信号電荷を内部加算することもできる。この場合、内部加算する3画素の信号電荷の組み合わせは、図3(a)に示すように

連続した加算出力が間に休みを伴なって間欠的に得られる場合と、同図(b)に示すように等間隔で得られる場合とがある。

【0011】図3(a)に示す出力状態は、図1(e) ~ (h)の処理を2回繰り返すことによって実現することができる。また、図3(b)に示す出力状態は、図4(a)~(j)及び図5(a)~(j)に示すように、信号電荷を2回巡回させて3画素分の信号電荷を内部加算し、次段への転送を3画素周期にすることで実現することができる。この場合は、図4(i)~図5(j)を繰り返すことにより連続した出力が得られる。

【0012】図6に示す色フィルタ配列の場合には、色フィルタアレイの繰り返し周期は3画素となる。このような色フィルタアレイを用いて上述した2画素の内部加算を行なった場合の動作を、図7(a)~(j)及び図8(a)~(g)に示している。この例では3画素毎に信号出力状態と無出力状態とが繰り返されているが、出力への電荷転送つまり図7(i)と図8(d)とを入れ替えれば、2画素毎に信号出力を行なうことができる。そして、この例では、図7(f)~図8(g)を繰り返すことにより連続した出力が得られる。

【0013】次に、電極構造と駆動パルスについて説明する。図9は、垂直転送CCDと水平転送CCDとの間に転送段数2段の巡回型CCDを設置した場合の電極構造を示し、この電極構造の模式図を図10に示している。図10で斜線で示した部分が巡回型CCDである。このような電極構造で図1及び図2に示した電荷転送を行なわせる場合の駆動パルスを図11に示している。なお、図11において、信号電荷はパルスの高い方へ移動するものとし、符号1a~1j及び2a,2bはそれぞれ図1(a)~(j)及び図2(a),(b)に対応している。

【0014】また、図10に示した電極構造で図4及び図5に示した電荷転送を行なわせる場合の駆動パルスを図12に示している。なお、図12において、符号4a~4j及び5a~5jはそれぞれ図4(a)~(j)及び図5(a)~(j)に対応している。さらに、図7及び図8に示した電荷転送を行なわせる場合の電極構造を図13に示し、その駆動パルスを図14に示している。なお、図13で斜線で示した部分が巡回型CCDである。また、図14において、符号7a~7j及び8a~8gはそれぞれ図7(a)~(j)及び図8(a)~(g)に対応している。

【0015】次に、図15は、転送段数が2段の巡回型CCDを、水平転送CCDと電荷電圧変換用増幅回路との間に介在させたときの電極構造を示している。この電極構造で図1及び図2に示した電荷転送を行なわせる場合の駆動パルスを図16に示している。なお、図16において、符号1a~1j及び2a,2bはそれぞれ図1(a)~(j)及び図2(a),(b)に対応してい

る。また、図15に示す電極構造で図4及び図5に示した電荷転送を行なわせる場合の駆動パルスを図17に示している。なお、図17において、符号4a~4j及び5a~5jはそれぞれ図4(a)~(j)及び図5(a)~(j)に対応している。

【0016】さらに、図18は、転送段数が3段の巡回型CCDを、水平転送CCDと電荷電圧変換用増幅回路との間に介在させたときの電極構造を示している。この電極構造で図7及び図8に示した電荷転送を行なわせる場合の駆動パルスを図19に示している。なお、図19において、符号7a~7j及び8a~8gはそれぞれ図7(a)~(j)及び図8(a)~(g)に対応している。

【0017】次に、CCDから得られる信号の処理について、垂直2ライン周期の色フィルタアレイを用い、信号電荷を2画素内部加算した場合を例にとって説明する。すなわち、図20に示すように、CCD17の出力をスイッチ18を介して2H遅延回路19に送出する。スイッチ18は、駆動パルス発生回路20によって、CCD17から出力信号が発生されているときはその信号を2H遅延回路19に導き、CCD17から出力信号が発生されていないときは2H遅延回路19の出力を再度2H遅延回路19に導くように切換制御される。

【0018】このため、2 H遅延回路 1 9の入出力には、連続した信号を得ることができ、この信号を処理することによってカラーテレビジョン信号を生成することができる。この場合、2 H遅延回路 1 9の入出力を加算回路 2 1 で加算することにより、線形補間されたより滑らかな信号を得ることができる。なお、図 2 0 中 a ~ d点の信号を図 2 1 (a) ~ (d) に示している。

【0019】また、垂直ライン数が実際に表示されるライン数の2倍ある場合、例えばハイビジョン用のCCD撮像素子を用いてEDTV用の撮像装置を作るような場合には、連続的に出力信号を得ることができるけれども、図22に実線の矢印で示すように、光学像のサンプリング点の重心は、図中点線で示すように等間隔にはばない。この状態を避けるために、図23に示すように、CCD17の出力から2H遅延回路19の出力を減算回路22で減算し、その減算結果の1/8の符号+,-を駆動パルス発生回路20の出力に基づいてスイッチ23で切換え、このスイッチ23で導かれた信号とCCD17の出力とを加算回路24で加算することにより、サンプリング点を等価的に等間隔に並べることができる。

【0020】次に、水平転送CCDと電荷電圧変換用増幅回路との間に巡回型CCDを介在させたCCDから得られる信号の処理について説明する。なお、2画素周期の場合は、垂直2ライン周期の場合と同様に説明することができるので、図6に示した3画素周期の色フィルタアレイで2画素毎に加算出力が得られる図7及び図8の

場合について説明する。

【0021】このような色フィルタ配列の場合には、図 24に示すように、CCD17から出力されるR,G,Bの順次信号をS/H(サンプル/ホールド)回路 25, 26, 27で、駆動パルス発生回路 20から出力されるサンブリングパルス ϕ R, ϕ G, ϕ Bに基づいてサンプリングすることにより、図 25に示すように分離されたR,G,B信号を得ることができる。このため、図 26に示すように、CCD17の出力が得られるときだけ対応するサンプリングパルス ϕ R, ϕ G, ϕ Bを発生するように駆動パルス発生回路 20を構成すれば、高感度化を図ることができる。なお、この発明は上記各実施例に限定されるものではなく、この外その要旨を逸脱しない範囲で種々変形して実施することができる。

[0022]

【発明の効果】以上詳述したようにこの発明によれば、 色信号キャリアを減少させることなく雑音を低減し高感 度化を図り得る極めて良好な単板式固体カラー撮像装置 を提供することができる。

【図面の簡単な説明】

- 【図1】この発明に係る単板式固体カラー撮像装置の一 実施例を説明するもので、電荷転送の様子を示す図。
- 【図2】同電荷転送の様子を示す図。
- 【図3】3画素加算時の出力状態を説明するために示す図。
- 【図4】同3画素加算時の電荷転送の様子を示す図。
- 【図5】同電荷転送の様子を示す図。
- 【図6】3画素周期の色フィルタアレイを示す図。
- 【図7】同色フィルタアレイを用いた2画素加算時の電 荷転送の様子を示す図。
- 【図8】同電荷転送の様子を示す図。
- 【図9】同実施例の電極構造を示す図。
- 【図10】同電極構造を模式的に示す図。
- 【図11】同模式図の構成で図1及び図2に示す電荷転送を実行するための駆動パルスを示す図。
- 【図12】同模式図の構成で図4及び図5に示す電荷転送を実行するための駆動パルスを示す図。
- 【図13】図7及び図8に示す電荷転送を実行するため の電極構造を模式的に示す図。
- 【図14】同模式図の構成で図7及び図8に示す電荷転

送を実行するための駆動パルスを示す図。

- 【図15】転送段数が2段の巡回型CCDを水平転送CCDと電荷電圧変換用増幅回路との間に介在させたときの電極構造を示す図。
- 【図16】同電極構造で図1及び図2に示す電荷転送を 実行するための駆動パルスを示す図。
- 【図17】同電極構造で図4及び図5に示す電荷転送を 実行するための駆動パルスを示す図。
- 【図18】転送段数が3段の巡回型CCDを水平転送CCDと電荷電圧変換用増幅回路との間に介在させたときの電極構造を示す図。
- 【図19】同電極構造で図7及び図8に示す電荷転送を 実行するための駆動パルスを示す図。
- 【図20】CCDから得られる信号の処理回路を示すブロック構成図。
- 【図21】同処理回路の動作を説明するために示す図。
- 【図22】光学像のサンプリング点の重心が等間隔に並ばないことを説明するために示す図。
- 【図23】光学像のサンプリング点の重心を等間隔に並ばせるための回路を示すブロック構成図。
- 【図24】CCDから得られる信号の他の処理回路を示すブロック構成図。
- 【図25】同他の処理回路の動作を説明するために示す
 図
- 【図26】同他の処理回路の動作におけるサンプリング パルスの発生タイミングを説明するために示す図。
- 【図27】従来の雑音低減手段の電極構造を示す図。
- 【図28】同雑音低減手段の電荷転送の様子を示す図。
- 【図29】 2画素周期の色フィルタアレイを示す図。
- 【図30】同雑音低減手段の出力を示す図。
- 【図31】同雑音低減手段の問題点を説明するために示す図。

【符号の説明】

11,12…電極、13…電荷電圧変換用増幅回路、14…色フィルタアレイ、15…巡回型電荷転送段、16…出力段、17…CCD、18…スイッチ、19…2H遅延回路、20…駆動パルス発生回路、21…加算回路、22…減算回路、23…スイッチ、24…加算回路、25~27…S/H回路。

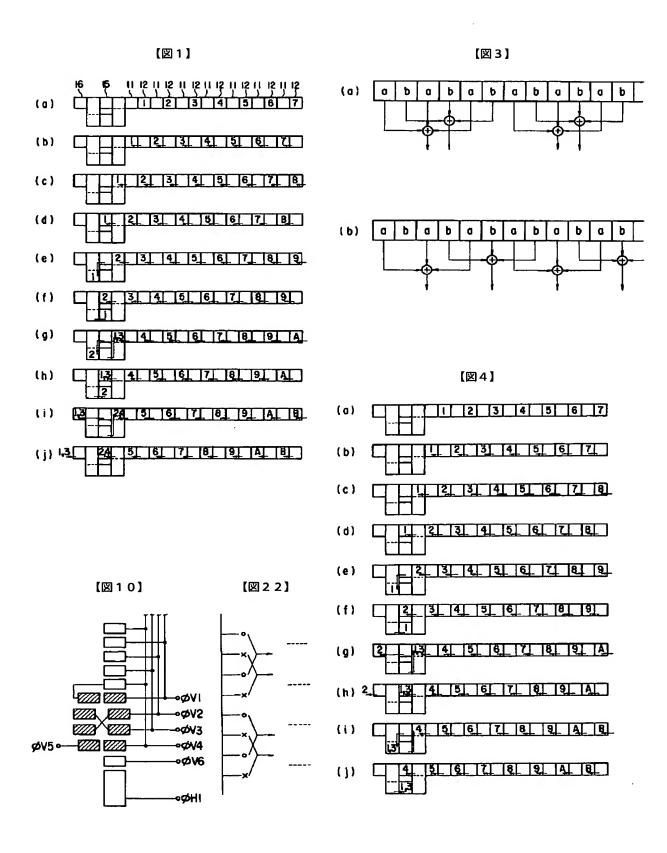
[図2]

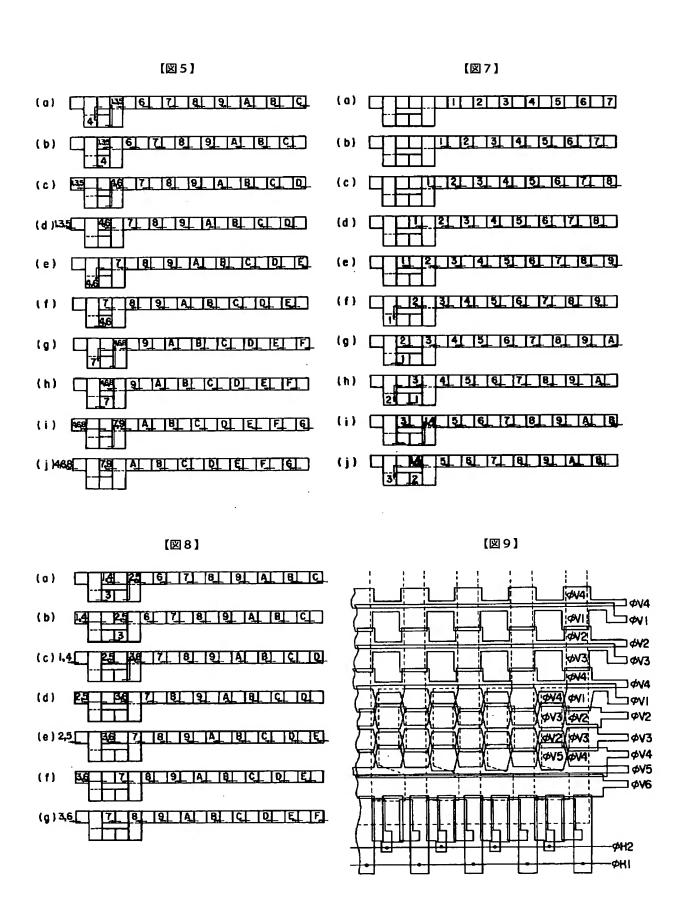
| (a) | 24 | | 5 | [6] | [7] | 8 | Ţ [ã | L | | I [c] |
|-------|----|---|---|-----|------|------------|------|---|---|-------|
| (b)2, | 4 | 5 | | | 7]] | <u>8</u>] | 9] | A | B | ÇŢ. |

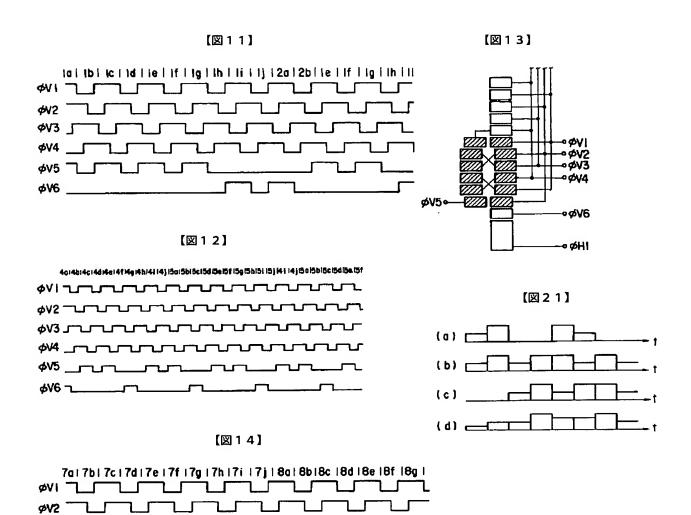
【図6】

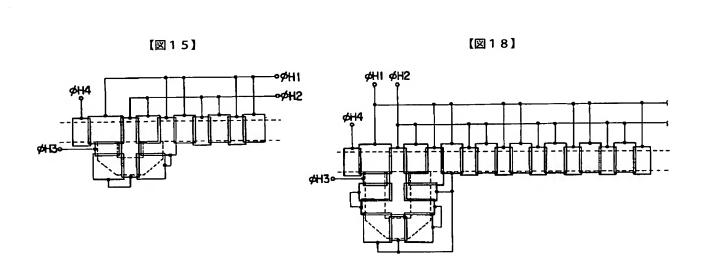
| | R | G | В | R | G | В |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| П | R | G | В | R | G | В |
| | R | G | В | R | G | 8 |
| Г | R | G | В | R | G | В |

3.色美国期



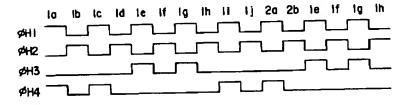




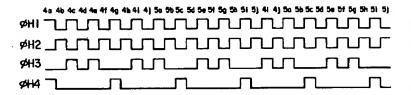


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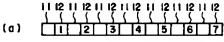




【図17】



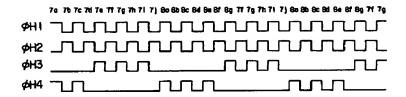
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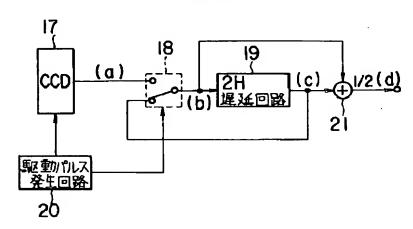
【図28】

- (b) [1 2 3 4 5 6 7]
- (c) 12 3 4 5 6 7 8
- (d) [2 3 4 5 6 7 8
- (e) 42 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
- (f) 3 4 5 6 7 6 9
- (g) 34 5 6 7 8 9 A
- (h) 34 5 6 7 8 9 A
- (i) 34 5 6 7 8 9 A B

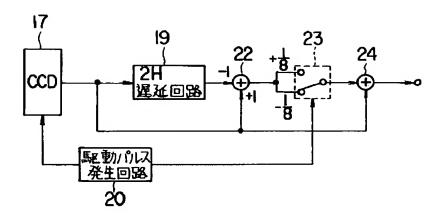
【図19】



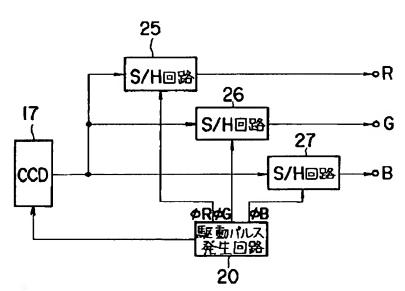
【図20】



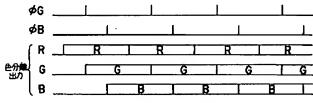
【図23】



【図24】



【図25】



φR ____

[図26]

